

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/813,041

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Applicant(s)

ECK, RICHARD E.2

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on May 10, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-7 and 9-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 May 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. On line 7 of Claim 4, the words "on the" before the word "adjacent" have been deleted.
3. An amendment was received from the applicant on May 10, 2005.
4. Claims 1-3 and 8 have been canceled.

Reasons for Allowance

5. Claims 4-7 and 9-18 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The watercraft as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a watercraft that is comprised of a hull, a deck, a support surface on said deck that is adapted to support a water sport implement and a performer of said water sport in order to allow said performer to put on said implement, a slanted surface adjacent to said support surface that provides clearance for a fin of said implement when laid on said support surface, and a first abutment that is secured to said deck and protrudes with respect to said support surface, allowing said implement to abut against said first

Art Unit: 3617

abutment in order to aid said performer in putting on said implement. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a watercraft as described above in combination with a second abutment secured to said deck, where said second abutment is positioned such that a straight line extending through said first and second abutments parallel to said support surface is skewed relative to a longitudinal axis of said watercraft.

7. The prior art as disclosed by Hendrickson (US 3,857,127) shows the use of a watercraft with a deck having first and second abutments mounted thereto, said first and second abutments protruding from said deck and mounted parallel to each other in order to support a dinghy when stored on said deck. Larson et al. (US 5,979,350) discloses a watercraft with a hull, a deck, and a support surface on said deck that is adapted to support water sport implements and their users. However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a watercraft that is comprised of a hull, a deck, a support surface on said deck that is adapted to support a water sport implement and a performer of said water sport in order to allow said performer to put on said implement, a slanted surface adjacent to said support surface that provides clearance for a fin of said implement when laid on said support surface, and a first abutment that is secured to said deck and protrudes with respect to said support surface, allowing said implement to abut against said first abutment in order to aid said performer in putting on said implement. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a watercraft as described above in combination with a second abutment secured to said deck, where said second abutment is positioned such that a straight line extending through said first

Art Unit: 3617

and second abutments parallel to said support surface is skewed relative to a longitudinal axis of said watercraft.

Conclusion

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

lo

May 31, 2005

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Lars Olson
5/31/05